

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15543 01 OF 02 161942Z

67

ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00

SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AS-01 /092 W

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R 161928Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0430

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15543

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO GUAM, PENDLETON, CHAFFEE, EGLIN
AND INDIAN TOWN GAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB,

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

SUMMARY: THE GOF HAS TO DATE APPROVED ENTRY FOR ABOUT 4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS REFUGEES. BY DECEMBER THEY EXPECT TO APPROVE 15,000. LIMITING FACTORS ARE THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS (THEY ARE OPPOSED TO LARGE CAMPS) AND OF TRAVEL FUNDS. A BUDGET RECENTLY VOTED STILL DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR TRAVEL, BUT CHAYET THOUGHT SOME GOF ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. TO DATE ICEM HAS BEEN HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, GOF WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARRIVAL IN FRANCE OF FRENCH CITIZENS FROM VIETNAM. CHAYET SAID THAT GOF CONTINUED TO GIVE A LOWER PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN THE U.S. SYSTEM BECAUSE IT WAS STILL PROCESSING THOSE IN SEA WITH MORE URGENT PROBLEMS. INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT FOR FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICERS TO VISIT THE CAMPS TO IDENTIFY AND PROCESS REFUGEES COMING TO FRANCE. THOSE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE SUCCESSFULLY IN FRANCE (WITH A SPONSOR AND A PROFESSION) WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THEIR APPLICATIONS

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PAGE 02 PARIS 15543 01 OF 02 161942Z

APPROVED, HAVING RELATIVES HERE WOULD HELP, BUT LACK OF

RELATIVES WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN REJECTION.
CHAYET THOUGHT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN US
SYSTEM BY PROFESSION WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WE SUGGESTDHE
ASK WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION. END
SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 16 AMBASSADOR CLAUDE CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF
ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, GAVE
IATF DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRANK WISNER AND EMBOFF THE FOLLOW-
ING RUNDOWN ON THE FRENCH PROGRAM:

AS OF TODAY THE GOF HAS GIVEN AUTHORIZATION FOR
4,000 TO 4,500 INDOCHINESE TO COME TO FRANCE AS
REFUGEES. OF THIS NUMBER 1,700 TO 1,800 HAVE ALREADY
ARRIVED INCLUDING SOME FROM THE U.S. AND GUAM. OTHERS
HAVE ARRIVED FROM HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE,
THAILAND AND KOREA. CHAYET COMMENTED THAT FOR THE NEXT
TWO TO THREE MONTHS THE GOF COULD NOT EXCEED THE PRESENT
RATE OF APPROVALS WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 350 PER WEEK.
ACCORDING TO CURRENT CALCULATIONS BASED ON REPORTS FROM
THEIR POSTS AND EXPERIENCE TO DATE, GOF EXPECTS TO
APPROVE ANOTHER 10,000 REFUGEES BY DECEMBER BRINGING THE
TOTAL WHICH THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT TO APPROXIM-
ATELY 15,000. SINCE THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 15,000
INDOCHINESE NONPERMANENT RESIDENTS IN FRANCE AS OF
DECEMBER 1974, THE POPULATION WILL JUST ABOUT DOUBLE.

2. CHAYET SAID THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS
GOVERNING THE CURRENT RATE OF APPROVALS AND ACCEPTANCES
TO FRANCE WAS THE LACK OF RECEPTION CENTERS; THE GOF
WISHES TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE LARGE CAMPS. THEREFORE THOSE
REFUGEES WHICH CAN BE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN IN HAND BY
RELATIVES OR FRIENDS HAVE TO DATE BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY.
ANOTHER FACTOR HAS BEEN THE LACK OF PROVISION IN THE
FRENCH BUDGET FOR FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL TO FRANCE; THE
GOF HAD BEEN PLEASED THAT ICEM HAS BEEN ABLE FREQUENTLY
TO PROVIDE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO PAY.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH, LENOIR (SOCIAL
ACTION) HAS BEEN NAMED COORDINATOR OF THE PROGRAM OF AID
TO REFUGEES. THEY NOW HAVE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE USED
FOR PURPOSES SIMILAR TO THOSE RESOURCES THE USG PROVIDES
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PAGE 03 PARIS 15543 01 OF 02 161942Z

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THESE FUNDS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE
CARE OF ANY TRANSPORTATION OR SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO
HELP FAMILIES WHO HAVE SPONSORED THEIR RELATIVES. CHAYET
SAID THAT IF THERE WERE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES
IN FRANCE WHO DESIRED TO GO TO THE US, THE GOF WOULD BE
PREPARED TO INTERVENE WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR TRAVEL
FUNDS. IN ADDITION HE THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT RPT MIGHT
BE WORKED OUT FOR THE GOF TO ASSIST IN GETTING REFUGEES

TO FRANCE, PERHAPS THROUGH ICEM.

3. THE FRENCH HAVE TO DATE HAD NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE
WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN FRANCE. TO A LARGE
EXTENT THIS IS BECAUSE THEY GAVE PRIORITY TO THOSE WITH

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15543 02 OF 02 161943Z

67

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R 161928Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0431

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15543

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO GUAM, PENDLETON, CHAFFE, ELGIN,
AND INDIAN TOWN GAP.

ADEQUATE PERSONAL FUNDS. THEY ANTICIPATE GREATER
PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES
WITHOUT RESOURCES MAY INCREASE. IN ADDITION, THEY MUST
BE PREPARED TO TAKE IN, AS REFUGEES, MANY FRENCH
CITIZENS FROM VIETNAM. CHAYET SAID THERE WERE APPROXIM-
ATELY 2,300 FRENCH CITIZENS BORN IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE.
IN ADDITION SOME 7,500 WERE FRENCH CITIZENS OF INDO-
CHINESE ORIGIN, MANY OF WHOM MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE
VN TO HAVE ALSO VN CITIZENSHIP. FROM HIS EXPERIENCE AS
AMBASSADOR IN HANOI, CHAYET THOUGHT IT VERY UNLIKELY
THAT THE NEW REGIME IN SVN WOULD PERMIT PERSONS THEY
CHOOSE TO CONSIDER VIETNAM NATIONALS (WHO MAY ALSO HAVE
FRENCH NATIONALITY) OR VN NATIONALS WHO ARE DEPENDENTS
OF FRENCH CITIZENS TO LEAVE SVN.

4. CHAYET REITERATED THE GOF IS CURRENTLY GIVING PRIORITY TO REFUGEES IN THAILAND, MALAYSIA, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE. THE GOF SAW THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AT LEAST HOUSED, FED AND GIVEN MEDICAL CARE. THE PRIORITY OF RESPONSE TO THOSE IN THE U.S. SYSTEM WOULD BE AUGMENTED WHEN THOSE CASES WHICH WERE MORE URGENT HAD BEEN PROCESSED. CHAYET SAID THAT HE WOULD
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15543 02 OF 02 161943Z

SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES TO GO TO THE REFUGEE CENTERS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO DO SO BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. CHAYET SUGGESTED THAT WHEN REFUGEES AT A RECEPTION CENTER REQUEST RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE, SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS SHOULD CONTACT THE NEAREST FRENCH CONSULATE AND ASK FOR A FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICER TO VISIT.

5. CHAYET SAID THAT THE PROCESSING OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WOULD BE GREATLY FACILITATED IF THE GOF COULD GET THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WHAT IS THE FULL BIOGRAPHIC INFO AND PRESENT CAMP LOCATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WISHED TO COME TO FRANCE? (2) DOES HE HAVE A SPONSOR, A RELATIVE OR A CLOSE FRIEND WHO IS PREPARED TO HELP? (3) WHAT IS HIS PROFESSION? (4) CAN HE PAY FOR THE TRIP TO FRANCE? CHAYET COMMENTED THAT THE DESIRE TO COME TO FRANCE WAS NOT THE ONLY CRITERION; THE PRINCIPLE WAS RESOLVING EACH CASE FOR THE BETTER. IF THE FRENCH NOTED FROM HIS CASE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE BETTER TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED STATES, THEN THE FRENCH WOULD USUALLY DECIDE HE SHOULD STAY THERE REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE MIGHT WISH AT THE TIME. CHAYET SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT ESSENTIAL THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE RELATIVES IN FRANCE, IT IS ONE OF THE FACTORS FAVORING APPROVAL.

6. CHAYET SAID THAT ONLY A FEW VIETNAMESE WOULD BE WELCOMED IN NEW CALEDONIA AND PERHAPS THE NEW HERBIDES, WHERE THE UK WAS OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING THEM IN LARGE NUMBERS. THE FRENCH GATHERED THAT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE IVORY COAST WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE SOME REFUGGES IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY THERE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER OF INFORMATION, CHAYET THOUGHT THAT AN INVENTORY OF INDOCHINESE IN U.S. SYSTEM BY PROFESSION MIGHT BE OF SOME USE IN ASSISTING OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN REQUESTING THOSE REFUGEES WITH TRAINING IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. WE SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE GOF NEEDED SUCH INFORMATION IT CONTACT US.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 15543 02 OF 02 161943Z

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